



Presidents Leadership Class
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

PLC
ALUMNI

Alumni Newsletter July 2020

Food for Thought

A Reunion and a Reflection

written by Gretchen Bliss, PLC 1986

I know many of us are getting to the point where we are dwelling on the challenges of the past four months, BUT I had the wonderful opportunity to take time to reach out to my PLC class of 1986. This was no small task, it has been over 30 years, and in typical PLC fashion we have moved several times and are flung around the world. I was able to get back in touch with 15 of 56 students in our PLC class. We held a Zoom reunion on Saturday 20 June, and 6 of us were able to connect and catch up. It was a thrill to get back in touch and to hear about the adventures, kids, and current situation of each. We shared our memories from PLC and how to engage with the program and students now.

Of the group, four of us are in Colorado (even two in Colorado Springs) another in Southern California and Houston, Texas. Others on the list that I have located are across Colorado, Washington DC, Hawaii, Georgia, and New York City. Some of my classmates have stayed in their profession after completing their Master's degrees. Two of my classmates were journalists (had worked at the Daily Camera - great PLC supporters - during college and after). One of the journalists is now at USA Biking here in Colorado Springs. Two others are entrepreneurs and have their own companies in Denver and are surviving the impacts of the quarantine. Another is working for a government contractor in California doing all kinds of technical fun things with radar. I am in Colorado Springs after 25 years as a government civilian in the Department of Defense and now working at UCCS as Director of Cybersecurity Programs and have been on the PLC board for the past 14 years.



It is amazing how the years peel off and you are right back in recitation discussing things important and impactful. The great memories and lessons of the program and friendships. So, I know the pandemic can be frustrating and we can focus on the things that are gone or changed. Rather we should take time to reflect, at any age, on those things and people that have impacted us throughout our lives and shared experiences. If you find yourself going down the path of frustration, take time to connect with people that have positively contributed to your understanding and experience of the world and share memories, events and hopes.

The Presidents Leadership Class condemns the May 25th killing of George Floyd and the deaths of every other unarmed life taken by police brutality, including Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others before them, and also condemns the violence committed against peaceful protesters by police. Our program supports the catalyzed response seen around the country by peaceful protesters demanding justice for black lives lost and advocating for the dismantling of systemic racism.

Additionally, PLC supports our black, indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) students and alumni and will continue to do so. - Official

Statement from the Staff & Faculty of the

Presidents Leadership Class

We would like to thank all of our Alumni that engaged in our Open Discussions on Black Lives Matter in June. Your insights, passion, and conversations are incredibly valuable. If you would like to continue collaborations with our current students, please do let us know.

You can see all statements issued PLC students, faculty, and staff by visiting the PLC homepage here - <https://www.colorado.edu/plc/>.



Road Map to Fall 2020

The COVID-19 Response

#ProtecttheHerd

The Fall of 2020 will be unlike any other in the history of CU Boulder. As such, the University has been diligently working to develop a plan to bring students back to campus in the Fall and keep all of our community safe - students, faculty, & staff alike. Click [THIS LINK](#) to read all the details of the University's plan.

With regards to PLC, at present all first-year classes, events, and programming will be moving forward in a remote format. We are still waiting to hear on the other classes being in-person or not. This is subject to campus availability.

This is out of an abundance of caution based on the current situation. We are hoping to, and

open to, having some in-person programming as the semester progresses. However, we will always defer to the recommendations of the Chancellor and other governing bodies.

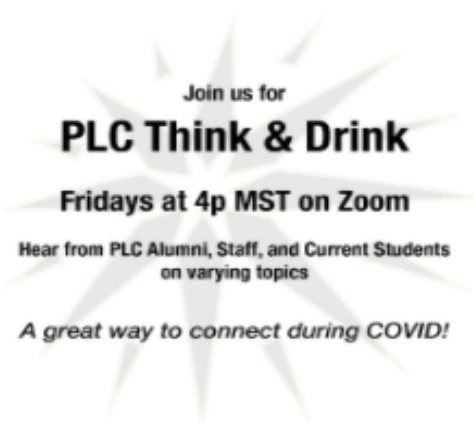
Upcoming Events

You are cordially invited to join us - via Zoom - to think and drink with your fellow Alumni!

Beginning at the end of April, the PLC Alumni Community has been hosting Think & Drink events on Fridays at 4pm MST. We have been so excited to host a diverse array of alumni who represent different eras of PLC as well as unique disciplines, business, and mindsets.

Please feel free to share these events with your PLC friends and encourage folks to check it out. We would love to see you jump on a call and say hello and share your thoughts and insights about the topics at hand.

You can find the logistical details for the remaining three sessions below. We are looking forward to 'seeing' you!



The Zoom link is standardized for each week:

<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/9875395360>

The remaining sessions will be held on:

July 17th
July 24th
July 31st

Stay tuned to the Alumni Facebook page and your email for information about our presenters and topics!



"Spring" Lecture Special Edition!

In lieu of the traditional PLC Alumni Spring Lecture, the Alumni Board has decided to develop a special event that works in our of our present, COVID times. At this time, the Alumni Board is finalizing the speaker and details for this unique event. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for additional details regarding topics and logistics.

**AUGUST 14, 2020
4PM MST**



Happy Birthday, PLC!

Believe it or not, the Presidents Leadership Class will be celebrating its 50th birthday in the Fall of 2022! We are in the process of planning a great weekend of events and celebrations. We are hoping to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our alumni over the years, the work that our current students are engaged with, and look forward to many more years of success for PLC.

Stay tuned for more information in the next few months! If you'd like to be involved in the planning of the 50th Anniversary weekend, let us know.

**Submit photos for the
Anniversary weekend here!**

PLC Today

Alumni Mentoring Program Update

A Note from PLCers Jasmine Szabo (2018) and Jeffrey Erickson (2017)

This year the PLC Mentor Program Coordinators are excited to be partnering with the Alumni Board and PLC's professional staff to revamp the Alumni Mentoring Program! We have seen a surge of engagement across our alumni network in recent months, and it is clear that now, more than ever, the importance of fostering connections between our Alumni and current PLCer Communities.

We will be focusing our efforts on two key areas: connection and support. The most important factor is improving the process of connecting PLCers with alumni. In the past, the responsibility of making a connection has been placed entirely on our students. Our goal this year is to create structures for both student and alumni participants to create and sustain a connection. This may include actively assisting current students in identifying an alumni mentor to reach out to, highlighting alumni mentor profiles in the student newsletter, and setting up virtual connection events where current students can engage with alumni in a group setting. Similarly, it is our intention to create a guidebook that details best practices and communication guidelines for both the student and the alumni. It is our hope that through the implementation of these changes and others, the Alumni Mentoring Program will be revitalized and provide a unique value add to our larger PLC community. We look to you for your support as we work to strengthen this program, and we look forward to the lasting bonds it will create between PLC students and alumni!

For more information on how to become involved with the program, please [email the coordinators \(Jasmine and Jeff\)](#) for more information!



Featured Current Student Profile

Meet Luke Giusto! Luke is member of PLC 2017 from Lakewood, CO. Luke is majoring in Business Administration with emphases in Finance & Marketing and, of course, a Leadership Studies minor.

Luke is the President of Student Staff for this academic year. His dedication to building community within the program will be an invaluable asset as we take on the incredible challenges that COVID-19 will pose for PLC. It is a well-known fact among current PLCers and recent alumni that Luke lights up any room that he enters.

Luke has unbridled passion for every organization and cause that he is involved with. He is an active member of the Leeds Consulting Group as an Analyst, the Leeds Honors program, and is an Evans Scholar.

Reconnect



Class Champion Initiative

To support our commitment to the reengagement of our Alumni Community, we are increasing efforts from our Class Champions. These Champions will be striving to reconnect with all of our alumni, pushing out information about the program, current students, involvement opportunities, event invitations and much more!

If you have any questions about who your Champion is, or if you have any interest in becoming a Class Champion, please contact emily.allen-1@colorado.edu.

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Mentor**

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Board**

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to PLC**

[Click here to update your contact information with us!](#)

Go Buffs!

www.colorado.edu/plc